

## BAPTISM

This winter FLEW by and if you blinked you might've missed it. But that doesn't mean that life change wasn't happening. It was quite the opposite. Perhaps nowhere is this more obvious than in our baptism celebrations. Between January and February, we saw 50 people decide it was time to go public with their faith in Jesus by being baptized. That number included 27 students (with 4 from Medina) getting baptized in late January at our Youth service after making a decision at Kalahari! Absolutely incredible! Then, 23 more people across both campuses took that next step on 2 Sunday mornings in February. Remember, baptism is an outward symbol of an inward, spiritual change. All 50 of these people made a decision to believe in the death and resurrection of Jesus for the forgiveness of their sin AND to follow Him alone as the leader of their life. These stories never get old and here are just a few highlights:



*"Before I became a follower of Jesus, the world was dark and I was not the nicest person to be around. The day I chose to follow Jesus, my dad helped me by taking me into his room and praying with me and that is where I confessed my sins to God and was forgiven. It felt like a burden was lifted and now I know that when I die, I will spend forever in heaven with Jesus."*

- Adam S. (Medina)

*"Life before Jesus was chaotic. I had so much anxiety all the time. I was constantly in the fight or flight state. I knew that Jesus died for my sins and rose again for some time. I had even prayed the salvation prayer before, but I never seemed to fully surrender my life to Him. Shortly after Charlie Kirk was murdered, I heard one of Pastor Nick's sermons and I knew something needed to change. I knew it was time to put Jesus in the center of my life."*

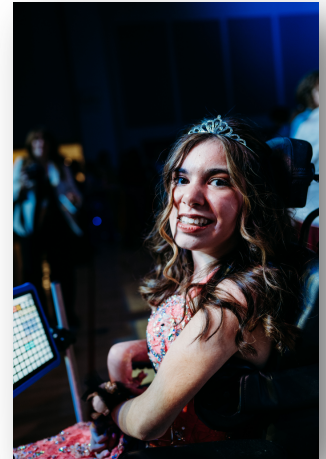
- Kimberly K. (Wooster)



## NIGHT TO SHINE

Night to Shine continues to be one of the most impactful community events we host each year, and this February marked a truly special milestone as we celebrated our 10th year serving individuals with special needs and their families across Wayne County. The night was filled with joy, dignity, and intentional care—from the red-carpet entrances to the dance floor, dinner experience, and crowning moments. What makes this event so meaningful is not just the scale, but the depth of connection it creates. For many of our guests and their families, this is more than a one-night event—it's a reminder that they are seen, valued, and deeply loved.

The feedback we received this year reinforces just how powerful that impact is. One parent shared, *“This is the one night of the year where my child feels like the center of the world—and as a parent, that means everything.”* Another volunteer said, *“I came to serve, but I left feeling like I was the one who was blessed.”* These kinds of responses continue to affirm that Night to Shine is not only meeting a real need in our community but also creating space for the love of Christ to be experienced in a tangible way. We are incredibly grateful for the hundreds of volunteers who made the night possible and for the opportunity we have as a church to continue being a place that is truly for our community.



The best is yet to come,

*Pastor Nick*